

Dr. Robert Loughran House  
296 Fair Street  
Kingston  
Ulster County  
New York

HABS No. NY-5560

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5560

## DR. ROBERT LOUGHRAN HOUSE

Location: 296 Fair Street, Kingston, Ulster County ,  
New York.

Present Owner: State of New York.

Present Occupant: Senate House Museum.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The Loughran House is a large Victorian residence  
and professional office built during the most  
active period of Kingston's building history and  
one of the buildings located in the Clinton  
Avenue Historic District.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was built circa 1870-73.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: 1870 Deed: 3 March 1870,  
Recorded: 4 March 1870  
liber 160, page 320  
Anna M. Voorhees  
Anna G. Voorhees  
Carol Voorhees  
Jane K. Agar  
to  
Robert Loughran  
  
1899 Will written: 8 April 1899, Proved: 1 May 1899  
liber 5 of wills page 296  
Robert Loughran, deceased  
to  
Helen Loughran, his wife, until her death or remarriage, then  
to his children:  
Robert L. Loughran  
Christopher K. Loughran  
Helen Loughran

Harold S. Loughran  
James Francis Loughran

1943 Deed: 20 November 1943, Recorded: 9 December 1943  
liber 638, page 192  
Althea B. Loughran  
Christopher K. Loughran  
Francis S. Loughran  
James F. Loughran and  
Mabel S. Loughran, his wife  
to  
W. Norman Conner

1951 Will Written: 23 March 1951, Proved: 20 July 1951  
liber 24 of wills, page 361  
W. Norman Conner, deceased  
to  
George F. Schroeder  
Harry M. Barnhart

1968 Deed: 21 October 1968, Recorded: 28 October 1968  
liber 1219, page 1019  
George F. Schroeder  
Harry M. Barnhart  
to  
The State of New York

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: Dr. Loughran had his office in the basement of the house while his living quarters were upstairs.
6. Alterations and additions: An elevator has been added in the northeast corner of the house for coffins in the funeral business.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Robert Loughran served as a surgeon in the Civil War in the 120th New York Volunteers. After the war, he ran an office on John Street with his nephew Elbert H. Loughran. In 1873 they moved into the building on Fair Street. During this time Robert Loughran served as vice president of the Medical Society of the County of Ulster.

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Elbert H. Loughran opened his own practice in 1880, after which Robert Loughran continued to live in the house with his family and practice as a physician and surgeon until his death in 1899. His family continued to occupy the house until 1906-07 when Dr. Henry A. Follette leased the building as an office and home.

After Dr. Follette moved out in 1927, the house remained vacant until 1932 at which time W. Norman Conner took over the building as a funeral parlor. The building was used as a funeral home until the State of New York bought it in 1968.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds, County Clerk's Office Ulster County Office Building,  
Kingston, New York.

Wills, Surrogate's Office, Ulster County Office Building,  
Kingston, New York.

Huey, Paul R., "Dr. Robert Loughran House (Conner Building)",  
paper in the library of New York State Historic Trust and  
unpublished part of Senate House, An Historic Structure  
Report, 1971.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Commemorative Biographical Record of Ulster County, New York,  
Chicago, 1896.

Prepared by William C. Badger  
Historian  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
Summer 1972

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a typical example of the large Victorian houses built during the most active period of Kingston's building history.
2. Condition of fabric: The house is in excellent condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This house is irregular in plan, being 46' -9" (four-bay front) x 57' in general layout. It is two stories high with an attic and a raised basement.
2. Foundations: The house sits on stone and brick foundation.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The house has brick walls, painted green.
4. Structural system, framing: The house is supported by brick walls on the exterior, and wooden framing on the interior.
5. Porches: There is a porch across half the front of the house with wooden columns and a bracketed cornice. Wooden stairs and rail lead up to the porch level. The balusters of the rail of the porch are turned. The rear of the house has a utility porch of wood.
6. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys, one on the northwest side of the house and one on the southeast side.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance has a paneled wood and glass door and is entered from the porch.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Wooden double-hung windows on all levels are single pane. On the first floor porch, they are floor length. In the monitor portion of the roof, the windows are single-light casements. There are several projecting bays with windows.

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8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The house has a complex, intersecting gable roof with a monitor in the center.
- b. Cornice: There is a wooden cornice around the house, consisting of dentils, panels and ornate brackets.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: There is a basement level with many rooms and is accessible through the first floor stairway. It was recently used for offices and preparation rooms for the funeral business. It also contains a mechanical room with a furnace.
  - b. First floor: The entrance from the front porch leads to an L-shaped stair hall. There are large rooms on either side of this hall and the hall terminates at the largest room which extends into the southeast corner of the house. This room opens into another room by way of double doors. Across the rear (east) side of the house is an added elevator (at the southeast corner), a bath and a utility room.
  - c. Second floor: The second floor room layout is similar to that of the first floor, with a few different rooms.
  - d. Attic: The attic is finished in the area roofed by the monitor. The several rooms are used for storage.
2. Stairways: There is an open-well, open-string staircase which curves into the L-shaped stair hall. The balusters are turned and there is a heavy, large turned newel post.
3. Flooring: Many areas are covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. Other floors are hardwood tongue-and-grooved boards.

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4. Wall and ceiling finish: The house has painted plaster ceilings and walls throughout, except the southwest parlor has new vinyl wall covering.
5. Door ways and doors: Paneled wooden doors, many of which have glass panes, are found on the first floor only. Second floor doors have transoms above them. All doors have heavy moldings.
6. Decorative trim: All principal rooms have deep molded cornices of plaster and some rooms have molded mounts for hanging light fixtures. The southwest parlor has an elaborate wooden valance.
7. Hardware: Doors on the first floor have gilded brass hardware with an ornate design.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
  - a. Heating: The southeast and northwest rooms have coal grate fireplaces with wooden mantels having cut-out stencil designs.
  - b. Lighting: There are brass hanging fixtures for incandescent lights and several rooms have wall brackets of similar design. Exterior carriage lights flank the entrance.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces west on Fair Street within the confines of the Clinton Avenue Historic District.
2. Outbuildings: In the northeast corner of the lot is a stable of wooden frame construction now used for storage and until recently used as a garage. There is also a small mansard-roofed building of frame construction in the southeast corner.
3. Walks, enclosures: There is a fence around three sides of the property. An asphalt drive, bordered by striated limestone pedestals, is on either side of the building.

Prepared by: William C. Badger  
Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1972

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under joint sponsorship of the National Park Service and the Kingston Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission with financial assistance from the New York Council on the Arts. Measured and drawn during the summer of 1972 under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, and under the supervision of Roy Eugene Graham (University of Texas at Austin) by student architects Philip D. Ward (University of Washington), A. Carol Boerder (University of Texas at Austin), M. Morgan Gick (University of Notre Dame), and Stephen O. Fildes (Texas Tech University). The drawings were edited in December 1972 by architect John Burns. The written architectural and historical data was prepared by William C. Badger (University of Pennsylvania), the project historian, and edited in January 1980 by Susan McCown, a historian in the HABS office. The photos were taken in August 1973 by Jack E. Boucher of HABS staff.